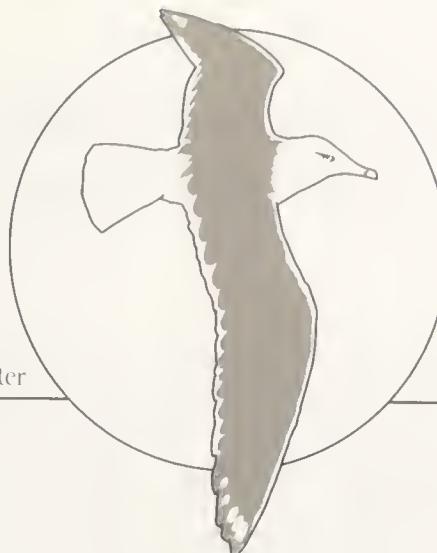


Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

SEP 14 2001



Volume 85 No 8 September 2001

Coastal Conservancy Awards Significant Grant for Martin Luther King Shoreline Education Project

By Dana Kokubun—Program Director—Friends of Alameda National Wildlife Refuge

The California Coastal Conservancy awarded \$110,000 to GGAS in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Education Project in Oakland during the 2001–2002 school year. The project provides opportunities for students and teachers to participate in wetlands restoration, raises their knowledge of the San Francisco Bay environment, promotes racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in the environmental field.

Elements of the Project include workshops for teachers, curriculum development, classroom presentations, shoreline and canoe-based field trips for students and environmental restoration work with local community involvement. The project

will serve over 1000 elementary, middle, and high school students and their teachers in the coming year. Some of the programs will be delivered in partnership with Save the Bay.

The Coastal Conservancy grant was made possible through Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000, passed by the

state's voters last year.

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency that works with the people of California to protect and improve the coast and San Francisco Bay. The conservancy has opened over 70 miles of coast and bay shores to the public and has helped to preserve over 60,000 acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, parks and farmland.

The Youth in Wilderness Project/Sierra Club Foundation, and the East Bay Community Foundation also awarded contributions to GGAS this spring. GGAS is grateful for the continued support of both of these foundations. Both have made prior grants to GGAS environmental education programs within the last two years.

The Youth in Wilderness Project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation seek to dramatically expand outdoor learning and wilderness opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth that would otherwise not have access to the outdoors. The Project funds opportunities for children to experience nature and wilderness firsthand. GGAS received a \$20,000 award from the Project.

The East Bay Community Foundation award of \$10,000 will help fund the position of program naturalist. Grants from the East Bay Community Foundation support the development of sustainable communities. The Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Education Project contributes to two of the Foundation's goals: it increases human activity that preserves and restores environmental quality and helps eliminate discrimination by providing equal access to outdoor education.

Navy to Reevaluate Superfund Findings At Alameda National Wildlife Refuge

By Dana Kokubun

Probably for the first time in the history of base closures in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Navy has agreed to take addi-

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Crissy Field Wetland Threatened!! Please Write, Letters Are Due by September 25

About ten years ago over 100 of you, our GGAS members, attended a Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission hearing in order to give the Commission the message that it had to create a wetland at Crissy Field. At that time the proposed wetland was strenuously opposed by some of the local neighbors and by walkers of unleashed dogs. Your voices were heard, however, and the Crissy Field wetland was created and it is now "the jewel" of the Presidio.

Unfortunately, it is a flawed jewel. It's too small to survive! Tidal wetlands need a sufficient flow of water through them to scour out the entrance channel so that it doesn't get clogged with sediment and also to keep the wetland itself from filling up with sediments that are brought in with the high tides and turning into an upland. The original plans for Crissy Field clearly stated that the wetland needs to be at least 30 acres in size in order for it to have sufficient water flows so as to avoid these problems. Sadly, the Crissy Field wetland is less than twenty acres in size. Unless the wetland is expanded it's future is in grave doubt!

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area had always pledged to ultimately complete the wetland. But the land for expansion is now located within the boundaries of the Presidio Trust and is under the management of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. The Trust has just released a Draft PTIP (Presidio Trust Implementation Plan) and instead of pledging to expand the Crissy Field wetland in order to complete its restoration, the PTIP only promises to study the feasibility of such an expansion.

We all know what happens to Feasibility studies. They sit on shelves and gather dust as the wetland dies. But we can change all of this just as we changed the mood of the GGNRA Advisory Commission that was ready to abandon the Crissy Field Wetlands to begin with. Your voice can make the difference.

The PTIP is a Draft PTIP and can be revised. Please write and demand that the Presidio Trust rewrite the PTIP so that it commits the Trust to completing the Crissy Field Wetland. Your letters must be submitted by September 25.

Please write to:

*PTIP Public Comments
c/o John Pelka
NEPA Compliance Officer
34 Graham Street
San Francisco, CA 94129-0052*

*Toby Rosenblatt, Chairman
Presidio Trust
PO Box 29052
34 Graham Street
San Francisco, CA 94129.*

Also, if you have the time, please send a copy of your letter to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. Her address is:
*The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515.*

Your letter can make all the difference.

Here's a sample letter:

*Toby Roseublatt, Chairman
Presidio Trust
PO Box 29052
34 Graham Street
San Francisco, CA 94129*

Dear Chairman Rosenblatt and Presidio Trust Directors:

I am writing to you to ask you to revise your Presidio Trust Implementation Plan (PTIP) so that it makes a firm commitment to completing the Crissy Field wetland rather than just undertaking a feasibility study as is currently proposed in the Draft PTIP.

I understand that the Crissy Field wetland needs to be at least 30 acres in size to be self-sustaining. The current wetland is only about 20 acres in size. This means the wetland needs to be increased by at least ten or twelve more acres. Without that expansion, sediments will collect in the wetland, the tidal inlet channel will become blocked and the wetland will ultimately cease to exist.

The Presidio Trust has the land needed to expand the wetland, what is needed is your commitment to complete the project. I urge you to make that commitment. Please change the PTIP so that it commits the Trust to completing the Crissy Fields wetland.

The Crissy Field wetland is the jewel of the Presidio. Please don't let it die.

Sincerely yours,



Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, September 1, TILDEN REGIONAL PARK, Berkeley.

See July/August GULL for more details. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot for this half-day trip. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936. Rscalf@jps.net

Sunday, September 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

For details, see October trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way). Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241 and Harry Fuller.

Saturday, September 8, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAINS (San Mateo County, north of South San Francisco).

Meet at 8 a.m. at the headquarters parking lot on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on this half day trip, which is a joint activity with the Friends of San Bruno Mountains. We expect to see migrating and resident birds. Leaders: Herb Brandt (415) 259-2711 and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

Wednesday, September 12, ALAMEDA SOUTH shore and surrounding areas.

See July/August GULL for more details. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Drive. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman. (*)

Saturday, September 15, LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, Marin.

See July/August GULL for more details. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot for this half-day trip. Take 101

north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001. Rlewis0727@aol.com.

Saturday, September 22, ARROWHEAD MARSH, Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline.

See July/August GULL for more details. Meet at 9:30 am. From Berkeley, take Hwy 880 to Hegenberger Rd. exit. Drive west to Doolittle and turn right. Turn right on Swan Way. Turn left after a block and take the dirt road to the last parking lot. Leader Courtenay Peddle. (510) 532-8911 (before 8 p.m.) caped-dle@there.net

Saturday, September 29, COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, at Lake Merced, and in Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers and vagrants. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Beginners welcome. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074.

Sunday, October 7, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all oth-

ers welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241 and Harry Fuller.

Wednesday, October 11, EAST BAY SHORELINE.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the large dirt parking lot next to the Seabreeze Market at the intersection of Interstate 80 and University in Berkeley. Take Interstate 80 to the University exit and go west towards the marina. We will bird the nearby mudflats for shorebirds, then probably caravan to Point Isabel and other shoreline spots. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2001

LEONA HEIGHTS REGIONAL OPEN SPACE, Oakland, 5/19/01, Rusty Scalf: 12 participants, 37 species. This small canyon features riparian habitat and a small cattail marsh. Breeders include Swainson's Thrush, California Thrasher, Hutton's and Warbling Vireo, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and others. STRYBING ARBORETUM, 6/5/01, Allan Ridley, Helen McKenna, Harry Fuller, Linda Lyons: 48 participants and 28 species. This popular monthly trip attracts so many birders that the group is commonly divided into two for a higher quality experience for all. A Scrub Jay was observed investigating the possibility of removing Pygmy Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker chicks from the safety of their nest holes in an agave plant. A Common Raven was seen enjoying a reptilian breakfast. Four male and one female California Quail optimistically enjoyed. REDWOOD

Continues on page 10

Fall Bird Classes by John Luther

Take these bird classes just for fun or as training to become a Volunteer Environmental Educator

Birds of Central California - Bay Area, on birds and local ecology

This class is open to anyone who is interested. For those individuals interested in becoming volunteer environmental educators (Docents) with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, this class fulfills the basic training requirement. It includes two Wednesday evenings and two Saturdays. The first Saturday, we will explore the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, which is off limits to the general public. The second Saturday, we will discover the secrets of the Arrowhead Marsh area at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. We will observe and look for birds, such as the endangered Clapper Rail, the Burrowing Owl, a wide variety of shorebirds and much more. You will search through the mud of a previously existing marsh and a newly restored salt marsh to discover what

the birds are eating. You will learn about the water quality of the marsh and how it relates to the health of the birds. In the Wednesday evening classes you will see slide shows and participate in interactive activities. The topics will focus on how birds are adapted for flight, endangered birds of Central California and the ecology of the Wildlife Refuge and the Arrowhead Marsh.

Wednesday 9/5/01-5:45 PM- 8:45 PM-RM- D115

Saturday 9/8/01-10:00 AM-5:00 PM-Field Trip

Wednesday 9/12/01-5:45 PM- 8:45 PM-RM- D115

Saturday 9/15/01-10:00AM- 5:00 PM-Field Trip

Department and Class Number:
Biology 080A—Code: A0997

Birds of Central California, on local birds

This class, although it has the same name as the previously mentioned class, will cover distinct topics. It is open to the public. It will focus on local birds and their natural history.

This class is not required training to become a volunteer environmental educator with GGAS, but is recommended as an enrichment class.

Wednesday 10/10/01-6:30 PM- 8:30 PM-RM- D115

Saturday 10/13/01-8:00 AM- 12:00 PM-Field Trip

Wednesday 10/17/01-6:30 PM- 8:30 PM-RM- D115

Saturday 10/20/01-8:00 AM- 12:00 PM-Field Trip

Department and Class Number:
Biology 080B—Code: A1138

To enroll in classes: If you have not attended a Peralta College in the last two terms you must complete an admission application either online (www.peralta.cc.ca.us/) or in person. Then you can enroll online or by phone (510-748-2228) or in person at the College of Alameda at 555 Atlantic Ave in Alameda just off Webster St. after going through the tube to Alameda from Oakland.

For more information on the class call the Golden Gate Audubon Society at (510)769-0155

Field Trips to Panama in December and March

Come join us for one of our upcoming birding trips to Panama. At the tropical junction between two continents, we can find a broad range of species in a variety of habitats. The focus of each trip will be the remote Darien National Park in eastern Panama.

We will spend the first three nights at the Canopy Tower Lodge in Soberania National Park, overlooking the Panama Canal. Canopy Tower offers tree-top views of tropical birds, easy access to the Canal-area birding hotspots and fine accommodations and meals. We will take a chartered flight from Panama City to Cana in the Darien and spend time both at the foothill Cana field station and at the higher elevation camp in the cloud forest of Cerro Pirre. Cana is

known for its superb birding, including four species of macaws, hummingbirds, puffbirds and with luck maybe the Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. Accommodations at Cana are rustic.

Our guides will be Rosabel Kaufmann and Darien Montanez in the Canal Area and Darien Montanez at Cana. Rosabel and Darien are two of Panama Audubon Society's most skilled birders and guides. The ten-day December, 2001, trip will begin on December 8th and will be escorted by Bob Risebrough, who chairs the GGAS Latin America Committee. GGAS past president Steve Margolin will be the escort for the nine-day trip beginning March 15, 2002. Each group will be limited to 11 participants. We hope to enjoy the birds we encounter, rather than

targeting particular species. At this time we estimate that each trip, including airfare from San Francisco, will cost approximately \$2,500 per person, double occupancy.

Optional extension excursions (at additional cost) may be arranged after each trip, possibly including a trek to see Harpy Eagles in Chagres National Park.

For more information about these trips and about GGAS projects in Panama, visit the Latin America Committee page of the GGAS website, <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org>. For updates, including a detailed itinerary, please contact Bob Risebrough at 510-549-2476 (or pelecanus@igc.org) for the December trip or Steve Margolin at 530-342-6476 for the March trip.

It's Our Fall Seed Sale Time!

Yes, it's that time again, autumn has arrived and our feathered winter residents are flying in looking for food. So it's time for us all to stock up once again on birdseed to feed our avian friends over the next few months. Please send in your order and make sure that there are a bunch of happy birds in your back yard.

Most of our native birds favor either sunflower seeds (chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, white-crowned sparrows, purple and house finches) or niger seed (goldfinches, pine siskins and chickadees). Volkman seed is the best there is, it contains no waste seed and has been cleaned of debris and dust so you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS office, 510-843-2222.

The next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on September 28th and 29th.

If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS (or your credit card information), with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, September 20th.

You can pick-up your seed on either Friday, September 28, from 5-6 PM or on Saturday, September 29, from 9 AM - 12 Noon, at the Golden Gate Audubon office in Berkeley.

We will have plenty of extra seed on hand so if you didn't order enough seed, or forgot to order any seed at all, please come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

We also have the Duncraft Feeder, a 16" long tube seed-feeder and, as always, we have a variety of hummingbird feeders, a fun thistle seed feeder (the birds twirl around as if on a carousel) and thistle stockings.

In addition to the standard field guides, here are some books we have in stock (price includes member 10% discount and sales tax):

Birding Northern California listing almost 300 birding sites, including 81 prime locations (\$18.50)

Birds of Northern California Annotated Field List by Joe Morlan, et al. identifying which month, where and in what habitat the bird can be found (\$5.75)

Birds of Northern California Field Guide by Fix and Bezener (\$19.50)

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching published by Sequoia Audubon Society (\$14.50)

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE ORDER AND PREPAY BY September 20. PICK-UP September 28 (5-6 pm) and September 29 (9-12 noon). (All prices include sales tax.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

SEED	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN MIX <i>Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed</i>	20 lbs. 50 lbs.	\$ 9.25 \$21.75
VOLKMAN PREMIUM WILD BIRD SEED <i>Composed of only red and white millet - no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)</i>	20 lbs. 50 lbs.	\$ 8.75 \$20.75
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs. 50 lbs.	\$ 9.75 \$17.75
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER CHIPS <i>(No waste!)</i>	25 lbs.	\$22.00
NIGER (THISTLE) SEED	5 lbs.	\$ 7.50

FEEDERS

DUNCRAFT SEED TUBE FEEDER 16"	\$30.25
THISTLE FEEDER	\$10.75
THISTLE STOCKING	\$ 3.25
SQUIRREL-PROOF FEEDER (three tubes)	\$57.00
HUMMINGBIRD (window)	\$10.75
HUMMZINGER (saucer style, 16 oz.)	\$16.75
HUMMINGBIRD (16 oz. bottle)	\$15.00
SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")	\$ 6.00
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)	\$ 2.50

SUB-TOTAL

Please include a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS

Mail to and pick up at the GGAS office:
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

TOTAL

Check enclosed Visa MasterCard

Credit Card No.: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Donations

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In Memorium

Virginia Bary in memory of **Grace Norman**. James Hudkins CPA in memory of **Ellen Williamson**

Contributions

GGAS gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a computer, printer, monitor and CD ROM drive as a gift of **Jacqui Smalley and John Austin**

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.

A Reminder: GGAS To Offer A Seminar on Socially and Environmentally Conscious Investing

We would all like to receive as large a return as possible from our investments. Is it possible to invest in socially and environmentally sound companies and still make a comfortable return? If so, how does one know where to invest?

Mellon Private Asset Management, a division of Mellon Bank, has generously agreed to present a seminar to

GGAS members on this issue. Their experts in this field will inform us on the many opportunities that exist for socially and environmentally conscious investing.

The seminar will take place on Friday, October 26, 2001 from 3 PM to 5 PM at the offices of the Mellon Trust of California located at One Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor in San Francisco.

Admission is free but please RSVP to the GGAS office at 510-843-2222 by October 19, 2001.

We will have incredible views of the Bay and light refreshments will be served. You will gain valuable insights on how to invest without guilt and you'll have a chance to meet other GGAS members and staff. What more could you ask. See you there.

GGAS 2001-2002 Meeting Schedule

This year we are doing something new: instead of alternating the meetings between San Francisco and Berkeley, we will have regular meetings each month in both places. In general, **the San Francisco meetings will be the second Thursday of the**

month, still at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco, CA 94114, (415) 554-9600. **The Berkeley meetings will be the third Thursday of the month**, still at the Northbrea Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707, (510) 526-3805. We meet

socially at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome arrive as early as your time permits. The programs begins at 7:30 p.m. There are exceptions in October, December, and May, so check the dates and locations carefully. The schedule will be:

September 13

September 20

October 11

October 18

November 8

November 15

December

December 16

December 27

January 10

January 17

February 14

February 21

March 14

March 21

April 11

April 18

May 9

May 16

Randall Museum, George Peyton: slide show on East Africa
Northbrea Community Church, George Peyton: slide show on East Africa
Muir Woods, Paul Heady and Mia Monroe: Bats! In Muir Woods!
Oakland Museum, Bill Young and Paul Matzner, Nature Sounds Society: Bird-Song Identification, Recording, and Cataloging
Randall Museum, George Raiche: Digiscoping: Using a Digital Camera and Spotting Scope Together to Take Pictures
Northbrea Community Church, Eleanor Briccetti: Birds of Churchill, Manitoba and the Pribilof Islands of Alaska – A Slide Presentation
No meetings, please sign up for one of the Christmas Bird Counts
Oakland Bird Count
San Francisco Bird Count
Randall Museum, Michael Boland, Andrew Rush, Joe Kinyon: Mountain Lake Update
Northbrea Community Church, Ted Pierce: 20,000 Years of Bird Illustration
Randall Museum, Daniel Edelstein: Bird Singing: The Ecology of Birds' Songs and Identifying Them By Ear
Northbrea Community Church, Ron Gaul: Reforming California Gill-net Fisheries
Randall Museum, Birds at the Randall Museum
Northbrea Community Church, Alan Kaplan: Birds & Bugs
Randall Museum, Jay Withgott: Biodiversity and Conservation in Sonora, Mexico
Northbrea Community Church, program to be announced
Strybing Arboretum, Curt Black: Bats! In Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park!
Northbrea Community Church, program to be announced

Save the Quail—Spring 2001 Update

—By Alan Hopkins

The hard work of volunteers pays off in Quail Chicks!

What could be more gratifying than knowing the work you are doing is making a difference? That is exactly what the people involved in the Save the Quail Campaign can be proud of.

With the help of the Save the Quail volunteers and the folks at the Presidio Trust, a site in the Presidio that was once a mono-culture of Iceplant has become prime quail habitat. Our first habitat restoration task was to clear the Iceplant and remnant duff to expose the native sandy soils. As the rainy season approached we returned to plant hundreds of native species such as Coast Buckwheat, Mock Heather, Toyon, Coast Live Oak. We also created brush piles for cover, something most park planners want to remove and not create! Within a few days quail were using the brush piles and feeding along the edge of the restored area. Later we returned to the restoration site to do some weeding and build new brush piles to create corridors allowing the quail to move from one habitat area to another. During a hot spell, Steve Ginsberg and Josiah Clark created small water troughs that the birds are now using. The result of our labor, as of writing, can be seen in 15 or more chicks found using the site. And with another near-by clutch of twenty chicks, it is possible that the quail population could double in one year!

There were a number of interesting quail reports from other parts of the city. Quail were heard or seen at Stern Grove and below Mount Davidson. In Golden Gate Park they were on Strawberry Hill and the Pioneer Log Cabin (probably the same birds) and at the Horseshoe Pits near Stanyan Street. Another quail was heard near East Fort Miley.

The quail in Strybing Arboretum are having a rough time surviving; however, the efforts of Joyce Lehman

through the Quail Watch program have given us important insight into what may be the causes of the quails' decline. She wrote "June 4, Monday, 11:15 AM – 1 PM. Sunny, warm and breezy... The female ran up the path west, and under some low shrubs by the pine tree. Her male got distracted and chased the other males and lost his mate. He searched around in the area nearby, then flew up into the "Autumn Glory" tree and was calling. I walked uphill to see if I could find the female. She was in the east corner of bed "50", then went under some succulents and I hear her clucking and softly calling. She seemed very well hidden; I could barely see her with my binoculars. After about 5 minutes she left and went down the path under the pines; her male found her there. I wondered if there was some significance to her being hunkered down and looked closely where she had been, and saw a nest with 5 eggs."

Joyce wrote on June 6: "I was going up the path when I saw a Scrub jay fly down to the nest and look in. I ran up the path & around the corner & by the time I got to the nest area the jay was gone. The pair now appeared on that path & went down to eat bird seed by the Hamm bench in the central open area... By now one other male was calling in the Mexican apple tree above the nest & one male was calling down below. The pair went up the wall behind the Ripley bench in the open area. THE JAY FLEW INTO THE NEST AREA & FLEW AWAY WITH AN EGG IN ITS BEAK!" Later Joyce discovered that all the eggs had been taken. While this is a sad story, if we are going to save the quail we need to have a clear picture of what is responsible for their decline. When quail lose a nest they will frequently nest again so let's hope Joyce's and the other Quail Watch participants' next reports are more favorable.

The Save the Quail volunteers

have been doing a fantastic job, and there is much more to be done! If we are going to meet the goals in our Quail Restoration Plan we will need more folks to join the team to Save the Quail! We are looking to begin monthly work parties switching between the GGNRA and San Francisco Parks. Our next work parties will be September 19, and October 14, come join us!

Quail Work Party, September 15 Our next work party will be Saturday, September 15, in the Presidio. 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Presidio Natural Resources Office. Directions: From the El Camino Del Mar entrance to the Presidio, take Lincoln Boulevard north for 1/2 mile and turn right onto Pershing Drive. After 1/4 mile (where Pershing curves to the left) turn right on "Road 1535-1543." The office is located on the right side in Building 1539. Look for the shade structures.

The Presidio Park Stewards will provide tools, gloves, water and snacks.

Donations

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Stefanie Arthur, Elizabeth Esther Rosenberg and John Hunt Kenny

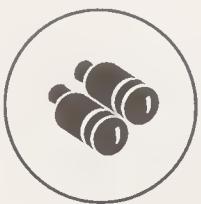
Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Hugh Cotter, Steven Lanum with a match from Charles Schwab, Mara Monroe

Gifts (to \$99)

Gloria Markowitz, Rudolf Glauser, Joella Buffa, Rigdon Currie, Frederick Hobson, John Luther, Audre Newman, R Malcolm Ohl, Vivian Pon, and Animal Farm & Wild Bird Annex

Continues on page 5



Observations

May 29-July 29, 2001

By Collin G. Murphy, Ph.D.

It may seem impossible, but the beginning of fall migration activity has been reported, with the return of common shorebirds to our shores. July had cool weather along the coast, temporarily alleviating the potential fire danger (said to be the greatest in decades). Just a handful of CBRC review species (4) added interest to the period.

Albatross to Ducks.

A subadult white-capped **Salvin's or "Shy" Albatross** (variously known as *Thalassarche cauta* or *Dioniedea cauta*) was seen on a Jul. 27 Cordell Banks PT, SON (DN). Its white cap would differentiate this individual as the subspecies *salvini*, compared with the *cauta* subspecies in which the head is entirely white (Harrison, *Seabirds*, 1983). Other sightings of this species or subspecies in the Cordell Banks waters have occurred in recent years, including one in Jul. and another in September of 2000. Three Laysan Albatross were sighted on a MTY PT Jun. 1 (DLSh). 150 Black-footed Albatross were spotted on a Jun. 1 MTY PT (DLSh), many others were noted on a Jul. 16 MTY Bay Whale Watch trip, MTY (RW), and 212 more were counted on the aforementioned Cordell Banks PT (DN). Pink-footed Shearwaters numbered 4 on the Jul. 16 Whale Watch trip in MTY Bay (RW), one was unusually close to shore off the Great Hwy. Parking lot, SF, Jul. 24 (ASH), and 760 were counted on the Cordell Banks PT, SON, Jul. 27 (DN). Sooty Shearwaters have been putting on their usual summer show, with enormous flocks visible offshore. Most reports came from SCZ county beaches, with counts ranging from 150,000 to a half million birds per day (or per patience of the counter!) in late May and early Jun. (CK, SA, SHo). Two or 3 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found on the Jul. 27 Cordell Banks PT,

SON (DN), and 5 Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported 50 mi. west of Crescent City, DN, Jul. 7 (PJM).

Two Little Blue Herons were reported at an unnamed SCL slough, Jun. 12 (fide BBo), and another was spotted in Alameda Creek, Niles, ALA, during the week of Jul. 13 (NC, BSc), where it remained through at least Jul. 22 (CL, ES, MOB). Coastal reports of White-faced Ibis continued to come in: One was seen at the Mountain View forebay, SCL, May 29-Jun. 4 BBo, MR), 31 were at Fort Dick, DN, May 30 (AB), 5 flew over SF, SF, Jun. 1 (HC), and a group was seen at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Jun. 1 (KH). Other sightings of White-faced Ibis were at Pillar Point Marsh, Princeton, SM, May 30 (CM), Pigeon Pt., SM. May 31 (RSTh), and Harkins Slough, MTY, Jul. 8 (RC).

The Greater White-fronted Goose decided to remain at Lake Merced, SF, through at least Jul. 15 (DM, EP, HC, MOB), and 40 Brant were seen at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, Jun. 13 (TA). Four Wood Ducks were reported at Neary Lagoon, MTY, Jul. 16 (JD), and an exceptional summer residence for a Blue-winged Teal was reported from San Lorenzo Park, SCZ, Jul. 11 (DB). There were 8 Harlequin Ducks at Virginia Creek Beach, MEN, Jul. 27 (DT), one Long-tailed Duck was found at the Albany Waterfront Park, ALA, Jun. 19-Jul. 19 (BF, DA), and a single Hooded Merganser was on Pescadero Creek, SM, Jun. 30-Jul. 21 (RSTh).

Raptors to Skimmers.

At Lake Sonoma, the 1st successful nesting record in over 100 years in SON county for Bald Eagles was reported Jun. 9 (DN). Unusual for the season was a Prairie Falcon over Neary Lagoon, SCL, Jun. 10 (BrM). Redwood Shores, SM, hosted an American Golden-Plover Jul. 12 (RSTh), and the Ravenswood Nature Preserve, SM, had a Pacific Golden-

Plover Jul. 23-26 (RSTh). A Semipalmated Sandpiper showed up at the CCFS, SCL, Jul. 16 (MR), a Baird's Sandpiper was at the mouth of Salmon Creek, SON, Jul. 26 (RL), and a Pectoral Sandpiper was found at Limantour Marsh, MRN, Jul. 8 (LH). A single South Polar Skua was recorded on the Jul. 27 Cordell Banks PT, SON, when 36 Long-tailed Jaegers were also found (DN). The 1st Jun. record of a Common Tern at the Charleston Slough, SCL, occurred on the 24th of that month (SRu). Least Terns appear to be holding their own at some locations, with 40 at the nesting island on the Albany mudflats, ALA, Jun. 10 (MRa), 50 at Mountain View salt ponds, SCL, Jul. 15 (PJM), and 15 at Crittenden Marsh, SCL, Jul. 21 (AV).

An article by Joe Eaton in *Terrain* (Summer, 2001) describes the Black Skimmer invasion of CA, starting in the southern part of the state, over the last 50 years. Both this species and the Great-tailed Grackle have recently been showing up and breeding in more regions of Northern CA. The Skimmer score is high this month, with at least 24 individuals reported, including several successful nests. Hayward Shoreline, ALA, had at least 12 birds, 3 or more nesting pairs, and two young over the period (BR, BRe, MOB). Breeding was also reported at the Alviso EEC, SCL, with 4 adults and two young (BRe, FV). Two each Black Skimmers were also seen at each of the following locations: Elkhorn Slough/Moss Landing, MTY, Jun. 5-10 (MPRBA, AG), the Pajaro R. mouth, MTY, Jun. 18 (KaH), the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, Jun. 28-29 (TG, CA), the Dumbarton Bridge, SM, Jul. 15 (PJM), Redwood Shores Sewage Treatment Plant, SM, Jul. 27 (RSTh), and one bird was at Meeker Slough area, Richmond, CC, Jun. 19 (DA). These sightings are becoming so common that the Observations col-

umn may not report them individually in the future, except where there is evidence of breeding or establishment of a new county record.

Doves to Grackles.

A White-winged Dove graced the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse, Jul. 28 (TF, RS, JS). Single Willow Flycatchers were found at Pescadero Creek, SM, Jun. 2 (RSTh), and at East Wash, Lincoln Park, SF, Jun. 11–14 (HC, ME). One Gray Flycatcher was at AMSP, MTY, May 30 (RW), and another was banded at the CCFS, SCL, Jul. 22 (MM). A Cordilleran Flycatcher was reported in the Mt. Hugg Ranger District, PLU, Jul. 10 (KB). Flycatcher of the period was the Scissor-tailed species. One was at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, Jun. 16, (RC, DR), and possibly another individual remained at Long Marine Lab, SCZ, Jul. 17 through at least Jul. 26 for a 2nd SCZ county record (BK, JD, MOB).

A **White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) was at the Big Sur Headlands, MTY, Jun. 11 (RF). This resident of the Eastern and Southeastern U.S. has very few Northern CA records (Small, 1994). Four sightings of Red-eyed Vireos occurred: at Lake Merced, SF, May 30 (JWi), on Dennison Creek, El Granada, SM, May 30 (RSTh), at AMSP, MTY, Jun. 17 (SR, RFo), and one captured at BSOL, MTY, Jul. 8 (JS). Rare for SCL county were several Bank Swallows at Ano Nuevo State Park, SCL, Jul. 8 (BRe). Another Sage Thrasher was at the Mountain View Forebay, SCL, Jul. 25 (VT). Uncommon on the coast, especially in summer, was a Sage Thrasher at Glass Beach, MEN, Jun. 10 (JW). Another Sage Thrasher was at the Ravenswood Nature Preserve, East Palo Alto, SCL, Jul. 17 (RSTh). Wood Warbler reports included 9 Hooded Warblers, and one review species, the **Blue-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora pinus*), a resident of the NE and midwestern U.S. It is

Wood Warbler Sightings

Blue-winged Warbler

Jun. 9 AMSP, MTY DR

Nashville Warbler

Jul. 29 (2) Presidio, SF HF

Northern Parula

May 30 Crescent City, HUM AB

May 30 Lake Merced, SF JW

Jun. 2 North Lake, GGP, SF RF

Jun. 4 Mountain Lake, SF AR

Jun. 6 La Honda Rd., SM RFr

Jun. 9 (1-2) AMSP, MTY DR

Jun. 10 South River Rd., YOL LW

Jun. 11 Big Sur, MTY RFo

~Jun. 19 McClellan Ranch Park, SCL MD

Jun. 30– Harding Park, SF HC, EP, MOB

Jul. 27 (1-2) Jewel Lake, Tilden RP, CC BF

Chestnut-sided Warbler

May 31 Carmel R., Carmel Valley, MTY CT

Jun. 14 Carmel R. mouth, MTY RFo

Palm Warbler

May 30 Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY DR

Jul. 11 Big Sur, MTY RFo

American Redstart

Jun. 2 Gazos Creek, SM RSTh

Jun. 9 AMSP, MTY DR

Jun. 10 Big Sur, MTY RFo

Jul. 21 Pacifica, SM DSi

Hooded Warbler

Jun. 3 Strawberry Creek, SON DS

Jun. 5–6 AMSP, MTY JS, MPRBA

Jun. 11 Carmel R. mouth, JS

MTY DSu

Valencia Creek, SCZ

BSOL, MTY SaH

NE of Scots Valley, SCZ BM

Abbreviations for Observers: DA, Dustin Alcala; SA, Steve Allison; TA, Tim Amaral; CA, Carol Anderson; AB, Alan Barron; DB, David Bockman; BBo, Bill Bousman; BB, Bob Brandriff; KB, Ken Burton; PB, Phil Burton; JB, Jerry Busch; RC, Rita Carratello; JC, Jamie Chavez; NC, Nancy Christensen; JCo, Jesse Conklin; IIC, Hugh Cotter; MD, Mike Danzenbaker; JD, Jeff Davis; JD, Jean de la Torre; ME, Mark Eaton; DE, David Ekdahl; RF, Rich Ferrick; BF, Brian Fitch; TI, Ted Floyd; RFo, Rick Fournier; KE, Karl Fowlie; RFr, Roland Franz; LF, Lillian Fujii; HF, Harry Fuller; AG, Alexander Gauguine; TG, Tom Grey; SaH, Sarah Hamilton; Kal, Kathryn Hannay; KII, Keith Hansen; SH, Steve Hayashi; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; SHo, Sherry Howe; LI, Lisa Hug; BK, Brad Keitt; CK, Clay Kempf; RL, Rick Lebadour; CL, Calvin Lou; KL, Kay Loughman; MM, Mike Mammoser; MOB, Many Observers; PJM, Peter J. Metropoulos; JM, John Meyer; BMi, Brooke Miller; CM, Carol Miller; BM, Barbara Monahan; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; BrM, Bryan Mori; DM, Dan Murphy; DN, Dan Nelson; BN, Bill Noble; LP, Lisa Pavey; EP, Preston Eric; MRA, Mark Rauzon; BRe, Bob Reiling; BR, Bob Richmond; DR, Don Roberson; MR, Mike Rogers; KR, Kerry Ross; SR, Steve Rovell; AR, Andrew Rush; SRu, Steve Rutledge; PS, Paul Saraceni; JS, Jenny Scanland; RS, Rob Scanland; BSc, Bill Scoggins; JS, Jason Scott; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSh, Debra Love Shearwater; DSi, Dan Singer; ES, Emilie Strauss; DSu, David Sudjiani; CT, Chris Tenney; RSTh, Ron S.Thorn; VT, Vivek Tiwari; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; FV, Frank Vanslager; BV, Brian Vogtien; AV, Ann Verdi; JWe, John Welch; JW, Jerry White; LW, Lee Whitson; AW, Alan Wight; JW, Jay Withgott; RIV, Roger Wolfe.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; BSOL, Big Sur Ornithology Lab; CBRC, California Bird Records Committee; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Creek Field Station; DN, Del Norte; EEC, Environmental Education Center; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; OSP, Open Space Preserve; PT, Pelagic Trip; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo.

exceedingly rare in Northern CA, with few coastal records (Small, 1994). Also of interest were two reports of nesting Yellow Warblers, the first in 50 years in CC county, with the 1st reported from Tilden Regional Park Jun. 5 (BB), and the 2nd a nest found in Pinole on Jul. 17 (LF, SH).

A **Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga olivacea*), another Eastern U.S. species,

and an extremely rare spring transient on the coast (Small, 1994) was discovered in Live Oak, SCZ, Jun. 27 (DSu), to make a 1st SCZ county record. A very late Golden-crowned Sparrow in heavy molting plumage was at Coyote Pt. Museum, SM, Jul. 27 (RSTh). There was a Rose-breasted

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Observation...

Grosbeak bonanza during the period, with at least 19 individuals spotted over ALA, MRN, MTY, SM, SF, SCL, SCZ and SON, counties. Most were reported from Mt. Davidson, SF, with a total of 3-4 individuals since late May (PS), and 2 were at a feeder in Oakland, ALA, Jun. 27 (KL); all the other reports were of single birds. Two Blue Grosbeaks were reported, one near intersection of Hwy. 1 and Bonny Doon Rd., SCZ, Jun. 2 (DE), and

the other on Del Puerto Canyon Rd., ALA, Jun. 16 (JCo).

An Indigo Bunting continued at Windy Hills OSP, SM, May 29-Jun. 2-11 (BRe, FV, KF, MOB), where an Indigo/Lazuli hybrid was seen Jun. 3 (BMi). Other single Indigo Buntings were in Half Moon Bay, SM, Jun. 3 (RSTh), Arcata, HUM, May 31 (KR), Cone Peak, Big Sur, MTY, Jun. 9 (SaH), and at Arastradero Preserve, SCL, Jul. 3 (JM, LP). As mentioned above, Great-tailed Grackles are still extending their range, with one in Schoellenberger Park, Petaluma, SON,

Jun. 1, a 1st county record (AW), with possibly another individual seen on Jun. 6 near the Petaluma Airport (DN). The 1st breeding record for SCZ county was set by two pairs of Great-tailed Grackles in the Watsonville slough, Jun. 19 (JWe, BV), and others were also in Pope Valley, NAP, May 30 (PB), near Sacramento NWR, YOL, Jun. 8 (BN), at AMSP, MTY, Jun. 5 (JS), at Harkins Slough, SCZ, Jun. 9 and 16 (JB, RW), and at Lake San Antonio, MTY, Jul. 16 (JC).

Navy to...

Continued from page 1

tional soil and water samples from a toxic landfill located on the decommissioned Alameda Naval Air Station. The West Beach Landfill, an EPA Superfund site, is located within the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. It is directly adjacent to the largest wetland on the refuge, important wintering habitat for a number of resident and migratory birds. For over twenty years, the Navy had used the site as an indiscriminate dump. The 1.6 million-ton landfill is known to contain PCBs, PAHs, petroleum products, chlorinated solvents and benzene. It also lies atop seismically unstable engineered fill. Given the relatively shallow water table at Alameda Point and the location of the landfill, toxins are probably already seeping into San Francisco Bay.

In March a team of GGAS scientific experts and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) eval-

uated a Navy consultant's study, called a Draft Remedial Investigation, of Site 2, the West Beach Landfill. The purpose of the Draft Remedial Investigation was to characterize the toxins; an important first step towards designing a cleanup strategy.

Unfortunately, the Draft Remedial Investigation was so deeply flawed that GGAS and the RWQCB insisted that it be rewritten. In a letter to the Navy dated February 28, 2001, the RWQCB flatly stated, "The Navy has failed to adequately evaluate the environmental data in the context of the documented disposal practices at Site 2, insufficiently evaluated the hydrogeologic and geotechnical conditions at the site, and relied excessively on summary statistics to dismiss serious concerns about pollutant hotspots. We therefore reject this report as unacceptable."

Under fire, the Navy agreed to additional site sampling. The new data will be evaluated along with existing data on contaminants and

the Draft RI will be rewritten. The revised study will be released in fall 2002.

This summer and fall, GGAS scientific experts will help prepare a work-plan for the redrafted Remedial Investigation, working with the Navy and the various regulatory agencies, including the EPA and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control.

GGAS wishes to thank the Armchair Activist participants who have written letters on this issue over the past several months. It has made a great difference! GGAS also thanks Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Barbara Lee, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Alameda Mayor Ralph Appezzato, Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, and Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker for their efforts to clean up toxins at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge.

Field Trips Calendar...

Continued from page 3

REGIONAL PARK, 6/13/01, Anna Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoleman: 30 participants, 34 species. Redwood, riparian, oak woodland and coastal scrub habitat. A flock of 45 American White Pelicans cycled above the canyon and a covey of California

Quail with 7 chicks scuttled into the underbrush. The songs of invisible Swainson's Thrushes bubbled up from the creekside foliage. HAYWARD SHORELINE, 6/16/01, Bob Lewis: 12 folks, 30 species. This what Bob calls the "Aww, aren't they cute?" field trip because of all the wittle baby birds: American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, fuzzy Forster's Terns and swal-

lows with lips. Seven Black Skimmers and an Osprey added to the day's excitement.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

Golden Gate Audubon Fights to Save Alameda Wildlife Habitat

In last November's election, Alameda County voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition D. This is a measure that protects the remaining open spaces of eastern Alameda County through the establishment of urban limit lines.

Golden Gate Audubon played an important role in that successful effort. We supported the Proposition and the use of our name gave it great credibility.

Naturally, developers are frustrated by this Measure and several have decided to challenge it in court by suing Alameda County. Golden Gate

Audubon, along with the Sierra Club (the lead environmental group on this issue) and the Preserve Area Ridgelines Committee (PARC), are taking part in this litigation as Intervenors, i.e., active parties to the litigation even though not part of the original lawsuit. The Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund is acting as the lawyers for GGAS, PARC and the Sierra Club.

Litigation is not what we want to do, but it is too often what we must do if we are to preserve our natural world.

Eastern Alameda County provides

habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake, the Kit fox and many other species listed on state and federal endangered species lists.

If you have never taken our Mines Road field trip, do yourself a favor next year and go. You'll see Roadrunner, Phainopepla, Lewis Woodpecker, Orioles, Lazuli bunting, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lawrence Goldfinch and many more, plus incredible wildflower displays.

Eastern Alameda County is a resource that must be protected. We are doing our utmost to do so.

October Meetings

Thursday, October 11th, Muir Woods

Bats! In Muir Woods!
Imagine walking through Muir Woods at night. Will it be spooky? Or will it be full of wonderful sights and sounds? The woods are seldom open to visitors after dusk, so here's your chance to find out first hand what it's like. For birders and nature lovers alike, October 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. will be a special opportunity to learn more about the bats and night life of the creatures of Muir Woods.

Join bat researcher Paul Heady and naturalist Mia Monroe for an evening visit to Muir Woods. For this event we will have to limit the group size to 35. Please call the GGAS office (510) 843-2222 to sign up. We will need your name, phone number, email (if you have one), and the number of people in your party. We encourage car-pooling and will try to assist, so tell us if you could be a driver or if you need a ride. Participants will be asked to bring a flashlight and dress appropriately for cold or damp weather.

Thursday, October 18th, Oakland Museum

Nature Sounds Society: Bird-Song Identification, Recording, and Cataloging

The Nature Sounds Society (NSS) is a worldwide organization whose principal purpose is to encourage the preservation, appreciation and creative use of natural sounds. The Society promotes education on the technological, scientific and aesthetic aspects of nature sounds through its programs and a diverse network of contacts.

The organization is composed of biologists, museum professionals, conservationists, sound designers, musicians, artists and radio broadcast specialists concerned with ambient natural sound.

The California Library of Natural Sounds (CLNS), located at The Oakland Museum of California, is a comprehensive regional collection of nature sounds, with a particular emphasis on California species and environments. It is located in the Natural Sciences

Department of the Oakland Museum. Recordings in the library include insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, environmental sounds and natural sound ambiances from a variety of habitats

On October 18 the meeting will be at the Oakland Museum, (510) -238-7482 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. While the museum closes at 5:00 p.m, security will be there to let people in at the 10th street entrance rather than entrance on Oak Street. We will be in the Lecture Hall on the first floor. Getting to the Museum by BART is very easy, too. Bill Young and Paul Matzner of the NSS will talk about Bird-Song Identification, Recording, and Cataloging. They will also talk about sound recording they have just completed of the Least Tern at the Alameda Naval Air Station.

This event is open to all and there is no limit to the number of people who may attend.

